

CALIFORNIA



Board of Registration for Geologists and Geophysicists SUMMER 1999

During the very heavy rainfall in winter 1951-52, several devastating landslides occurred in Southern California, particularly in the City of Los Angeles. In the interest of protecting people from harm and reducing

losses from landslides in their communities, the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, and later several other cities and counties, enacted ordinances requiring geological investigations prior to hillside development. The results of these investigations were used to mitigate the hazard from landslides.

Eventually there were 20 or more local geologist qualification boards in California. By 1966 both the City and the County of Los Angeles were tired of being in the geologist registration business. They were ready to work toward a statewide

geologist regulation bill in 1967.

Legislation in 1968 enacted the Geologist Act that created the State Board of Registration for Geologists. Legislation enacted in 1972 extended the Board's jurisdiction to include geophysicists, and the name of the act was amended to the Geologist and Geophysicist Act (Act). The Act restricts the practice of geology and geophysics offered or performed for "others in this state" and restricts the use of certain titles.

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Geologists and Geophysicists

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Seena N. Hoose
Board President*

As the President of the Board of Registration for Geologists and Geophysicists, I formally congratulate and welcome the **Geological Society of America's (GSA) Cordilleran Section** on the occasion of its Centennial Meeting, June 2-5, 1999. On behalf of the Board, I express its appreciation for all of the many geological, geophysical and paleontological studies that have originated with Cordilleran geoscientists over the past 100 years. The Board looks forward to working with the GSA in the future in meeting the Mission of the Board, which is to continuously enhance the quality, value and availability of geological and geophysical services offered to the people of California.

I also invite all participants in the GSA Cordilleran Section Centennial Meeting to attend the Board's Public Meeting that is being held in the Tan Oak Room of the UC Berkeley Student Union on Friday and Saturday, June 4-5, 1999. The Board looks forward to seeing you there!

Cover Photo: Devils Postpile National Monument. Taken by Mary Scruggs, Enforcement Manager

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE



*Paul Sweeney
Executive Officer*

As of March 1999, there were 4,151 Registered Geologist, 1,499 Certified Engineering Geologist, 604 Certified Hydrogeologist and 279 Registered Geophysicist active licenses in California. This group of licensees is charged with the professional responsibility of serving the more than 35 million citizens of California with accurate and responsible work in the geology and geophysics professions.

As the caretaker of these licenses, the Board of Registration for Geologists and Geophysicists must ensure their integrity and validity for the protection of the public. The Board promotes a strong enforcement program, has increased public outreach efforts, improved the examination process and responded to the demands of the State Legislature. The Board recently approved its revised Strategic Plan that guides Board staff in better serving the citizenry and the regulated community.

The Board has made significant progress in implementing its Strategic Plan by:

- Increasing the use of the Executive Officer's cite and fine authority.
- Using the Internet to post Board and committee minutes and agendas, its Directory of Licensees and other Board information.
- Increasing its use of information bulletins to better disseminate news concerning Board activities to the public and the regulated community.
- Promulgating regulations to implement legislation allowing the Board to use a national examination for geologists.
- Making the examination application, scoring and review process more timely and efficient.
- Giving presentations at colleges and universities to better impart the role of geologic and geophysical licensure in California and the importance of core courses to the profession.








I would like to thank everyone who expressed to me their feelings about the Board and its activities. Your comments are helping me to achieve one of my primary goals as Executive Officer, which is to ensure that the people of California are offered quality geological and geophysical services.





THE BOARD ON THE WEB

www.dca.ca.gov/geology

-  Publications
-  Enforcement Program
-  Registration and Certification
-  About the Board
-  Legal Notices
-  Announcements
-  Meetings

WHAT'S NEW?

User-Friendly
Directory
of Licensees

Proposed Regulation
Amendments

COMING SOON!!

Links to Important Sites



Topics

NEW PUBLICATIONS

STUDENT GUIDE TO GEOLOGIC LICENSURE IN CALIFORNIA



This guide is essential for any student interested in a geologic sciences career. Copies of the guide will be sent to all colleges and universities on the Board's mailing list. If your institution is not on the list and you would like copies for distribution, please contact the Board.

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

June 4-5
Berkeley

August 13
Los Angeles

October 22
Fresno

December 3
San Francisco

STAFF PROFILE

Diane Cortopassi



Diane Cortopassi began her career with the Department of Consumer Affairs (then the Department of Professional and Vocational Standards), Contractors State License Board in 1960. She worked as a secretary to the Contract Audit Manager, State Board of Equalization, from 1970 until 1972. After a leave to be a stay-at-home mom, she started working for the Board in 1982. She has seen many transitions at the Board, including six different Executive Officers. Ms. Cortopassi serves as the Board's receptionist; assists the examination coordinator with application processing; processes licensee name, address and other information changes; and answers correspondence from the public on a variety of licensing and renewal topics.

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Where are you?



Do you know where this is?
Watch for the answer in
Information Bulletin 99-03!



SUMMER 1999

COMMITTEES AND COMMENTS



*Robert Lindblom
Board Member*

Over the past six years, I have seen how the work of the various Board committees is so very important. Their efforts impact and contribute to the deliberations of the Board to fulfill its mission. The contribution of all committee members is exemplary, and it is difficult to express adequately the thanks and gratitude they so richly deserve.

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The Examination Committee is currently preparing the 1999 semiannual examinations and establishing the use of the National Association of State Boards of Geology examinations for spring 2000. In addition, the Committee is active in the development of the California-specific supplemental examination for use in fall 1999 for comity purposes and in finalizing the criterion-reference pass point for scoring examinations and the occupational analyses for the Certified Engineering Geologist and Certified Hydrogeologist examinations.

George Brogan replaced Frank Kresse as chair of the Technical Advisory Committee in January 1999. Mr. Kresse served a distin-

guished term as chairperson for more than eight years and remains on the committee. The Technical Advisory Committee is currently working on proposed regulation changes, a redraft of the Fields of Expertise document with the Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors' Technical Advisory Committee, the Board's role in real estate disclosure documents, a memorandum of understanding with the Board of Forestry, and discussion of core curricula with California colleges and universities.

The Legislative Committee is currently active in the review of legislation introduced since January 1999 that may affect the Board. At its February 1999 meeting, bills were discussed involving the San Gabriel Groundwater Basin, hazardous substance account extension, the Business and Professions Code related to professional engineers, and revision of the Education Code related to school facilities and the Public Resources Code related to surface mining.

The Strategic Planning Committee was formed in 1996 in response to the State Government Strategic Planning and Performance Act passed in 1994. The Committee submitted the plan to the Department of Finance on July 1, 1997, and meets annually to update it.

The newest committee, Enforcement Oversight, was formed in 1998 to review the Board's enforcement procedures and activities and offer suggestions to improve enforcement

effectiveness.

Again, in closing, the Board is truly indebted and most thankful for each committee member's time and propitious efforts that help the Board to effectively carry out its responsibilities to the licensees and the people of California.

The Board would like to congratulate Mr. Lindblom on his honorary membership in the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, awarded at the Association's meeting in San Antonio, Texas in April.

The award recognizes "persons who have distinguished themselves by their service and devotion to the science and profession of petroleum geology and to the Association."

(Continued from page 1)

The California law regulating geology and geophysics always has been a licensing act regulating the practices of geology and geophysics. Even though the word "registered" is used (Registered Geologist, Registered Geophysicist), the Board does not simply compile a list of all individuals who pay a registration fee (like the Registered Environmental Assessor list maintained by the California Environmental Protection Agency). The Board tests individuals for competency and issues licenses to those who qualify.

The Board's powers have been expanded since its inception to add geophysics as a licensed profession in 1971, a negligence provision in 1982, hydrogeologist as a licensed profession in 1994 and cite and fine regulations in 1995.



TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE NEWS

I am pleased to have been appointed recently as Chair of the Board's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), a committee on which I have served for the past 22 years. The Board refers projects to the TAC to conduct research and to obtain advice on matters of policy. TAC projects can involve almost any topic that relates to improving public health, safety and welfare through the Board's licensing programs.

Currently TAC and representatives of the Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (BPELS), are re-evaluating the Fields of Expertise document that

BPELS approved but the Board did not.

Another current project is to define the role of Board licensees in Timber Harvest Plans



*George Brogan, Chair
Technical Advisory Committee*

developed by Registered Professional Foresters. At issue is minimizing sedimentation in streams resulting from slope instability and erosion. TAC is also evaluating a position statement to address the role of licensed geologists in making

disclosures mandated by state law upon the sale of real properties. There are also questions of policy to be examined on the Registered Environmental Assessor (REA) program as it relates to licensed geologists. The REA program operates through a department under the California Environmental Protection Agency, not the Department of Consumer Affairs, and is not supported by the Board. Other ongoing assignments include examining and considering future recommendations regarding educational and experience requirements to become licensed.

There are other topics on the horizon to consider as well. If you have an issue you believe would be of interest to the Board, you are encouraged to present your perspectives at a Board and/or TAC meeting.

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ENFORCEMENT ACTION

John Kammer

Registered Geologist No. 6295

Certified Engineering Geologist No. 2118

Richard Pfost

Registered Geologist No. 4104

Certified Engineering Geologist 1281

The Board recently closed two enforcement cases resulting in citations and fines. Citations and \$2,500 fines were issued to both John Kammer, Registered Geologist 6295, Certified Engineering Geologist 2118, and Richard Pfost, Registered Geologist 4104, Certified Engineering Geologist 1281, for violations of section 7860(b) of the Business and Professions Code (Geologist and Geophysicist Act). The citations were issued for negligence in conducting a fault investigation for a proposed school site. In accordance with section 125.9(d) of the Business and Professions Code, payment of the fines does not constitute admission of the violation charges but represents a satisfactory resolution of the matter.

The Board receives complaints from consumers, licensees and other professionals involving many aspects of geology including landslides, slope stability, fault investigations, environmental projects, real estate disclosures and groundwater resource evaluations.

If you have a complaint alleging unlicensed, negligent, incompetent or fraudulent practice of geology or geophysics, the Board encourages you to file it. If you have questions about the nature or merit of a potential complaint, please contact the Board's enforcement staff.



Board Members

Seena N. Hoose, President
Karen Melikian, Vice-President
David Cummings
Dorene Dominguez
Robert Lindblom
Sharon Jasek Reid
Paul R. Russ

ATTENTION LICENSEES

If your Registered Geologist license is expired, you may not be licensed as a Certified Engineering Geologist and/or Certified Hydrogeologist.

If you did not maintain your Registered Geologist license but renewed your specialty license, please contact the Board office. It is incumbent upon the licensee to be sure his/her license is current when renewing a specialty license. If a licensee has renewed his/her specialty license and the Registered Geologist license is expired past five years, he/she must reapply and take an examination for both licenses. The specialty renewal fee will be refunded.

If you have interesting pictures of the geology of California, the Board would like to use them in an edition of *California Geologists and Geophysicists*. Please send pictures to the Board, identifying the name and location of the scene and the photographer. Please provide a self-addressed envelope if you would like the photographs returned.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT



*Julian (J.C.) Isham, Chair
Legislative Committee*

To date the members of the Legislative Committee have reviewed dozens of bills that could potentially have an impact on the Board or the practices of geology or geophysics in the State of California. At its February 26, 1999, meeting, the Committee reviewed the following bills and made the following recommendations to the Board:

Assembly Joint Resolution 5 (AJR 5) Memorializes the President and the Congress for the enactment of legislation to make necessary funds available to implement groundwater remediation in the Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin.
Recommendation: The Board **support** this resolution.

Senate Bill 47 (SB 47) A reauthorization bill for the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), that contains language to regulate hazardous waste substances in California. Article 8, the REA II program, has been of interest to the Board for some time.
Recommendation: The Board **oppose this bill unless amended.**

Senate Bill 191 (SB 191) Modifies the Engineers Act. Although this bill does not at this time affect this Board, it does describe how another

professional board can regulate its members. **Recommendation:** The Board **watch** this bill.

Assembly Bill 137 (AB 137) Requires school boards to perform assessments on property they currently own or plan to purchase to determine if the land was a hazardous waste disposal site, a solid waste disposal site or a hazardous substances release site.
Recommendation: The Board **watch** this bill.

Assembly Bill 219 (AB 219) Negatively affects the State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB). The underlying issues behind this bill center around the interactions between the SMGB, various mining companies, and a city in Southern California. **Recommendation:** The Board **oppose** this bill.

Assembly Bill 248 (AB 248) Describes natural hazardous disclosure statements for property transfers. The bill requires reports to be prepared concerning earthquake zones and seismic hazard zones. The current bill references reports prepared by Registered Geologists, but not Registered Geophysicists. The bill should be amended to include Registered Geophysicists.
Recommendation: The Board **oppose unless amended.**

Assembly Bill 303 (AB 303) Declares that additional study of groundwater resources is necessary to better understand how to effectively manage groundwater to ensure the safe production, quality and proper storage of groundwater in California. The language of this bill will probably change to reflect some other purpose. **Recommendation:** The Board **watch** this bill.

The next scheduled meeting of the Committee is May 21, 1999.



EXAMINATIONS AND ASBOG



*John Williams, Ph.D., Chair
Examination Committee*

With the coming of the new millenium, the relationship that has existed between the National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) and the California Board of Registration for Geologists and Geophysicists will be strengthened. Given the increasing interaction between ASBOG and the Board, it is appropriate to consider exactly what ASBOG is.

ASBOG was formed in 1988 to serve as a connective link between the individual state boards. In this capacity, it offers advice and counsel, coordinates and facilitates the planning for and preparation of uniform procedures and in every way is connected with protecting the public in matters of geological practice. The Association, through its committee structure, evaluates and provides recommendations on issues of common interest to member boards. Topics include criteria for licensure, such as formal education and work experience, testing, examination waiver, "grandfathering" and reciprocity. Currently the association consists of 22 member states. These 22 member states are more than 80% of the states requiring some form of geological

licensing. Nineteen of the 22 member states use the ASBOG written examinations as a component of their licensing of geologists. That number is expected to grow.

In March 2000, the initial offering of the ASBOG examination as the major component of the California written examination for registration as a geologist will be given. The Board, after more than three years of evaluation, determined that an applicant's passage of both parts of the ASBOG examination (Fundamentals and Practice) and a California supplementary examination satisfies the legal requirements for a written examination prior to licensure as a Registered Geologist.

During its 11 years of operation, ASBOG has worked aggressively to generate an examination that would appropriately test applicants for licensing throughout the United States. Evaluations of the data collected during the initial task analysis done to validate the examination indicate that the practice of geology is remarkably similar throughout the country. These findings confirm the appropriateness of using a national written examination to test applicants, regardless of the state in which they are seeking licensure.

The California Board determined that it is appropriate to have a one-hour, multiple-choice, supplementary examination to address issues unique to California — active tectonics, California geology, and California regulations related to the practice of geology.

The use of the ASBOG examinations should greatly enhance the opportunity and increase the ease by which geologists can become licensed in the 19 states currently using the ASBOG examinations. This should reduce or completely eliminate the need to take numerous state examinations.

ASBOG is in the process of conducting its second nationwide task analysis of practicing geologists for updating and validating the written examinations. The spring 2000 examinations will be the first to make use of the results from this analysis.

For those seeking additional information about ASBOG, the homepage may be contacted at www.asbog.org.

1999/2000 EXAMINATION SCHEDULE

September 28, 1999
March 17, 2000
September 15, 2000

Examinations are administered in Sacramento and Southern California.

Beginning in fall 1999, the Board will administer the first California-specific supplemental examination for comity purposes only. Beginning in spring 2000, the Board will administer the ASBOG examination and the California-specific supplemental examination for licensure as a Registered Geologist.

Please contact the Board's examination unit for all examination information.



Geological processes have a significant impact on life in California. Some processes are obvious to the casual observer, such as major landslides. Others are subtle or totally foreign to many. These include active faults, ground acceleration, groundwater contamination and impacted groundwater aquifers.

Natural disasters and extreme climactic weather conditions have been common occurrences in recent years. Earthquakes as well as large and small-scale storm-related events such as landslides and flooding have resulted in loss of life and damage to property and have required repairs and hazard mitigation.



Photo: Pacific Coast Highway at Topanga Canyon Drive, Los Angeles County



Photo: Calle del Barco landslide, Los Angeles County

These photographs illustrate how natural phenomena affect the lives of California citizens and how important it is for the Board's enforcement program to take action against individuals who violate the provisions of the Geologist and Geophysicist Act. If you have questions about provisions of the Act or about filing a complaint, please contact the Board's enforcement staff.

Board of Registration for Geologists and Geophysicists
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